

MINUTES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

December 10, 2013

Called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present: Lana Razdan, Rollyn Hoffman, Gary DellaRocco, Peter Beacham, Jim Cox, Steve Attwood

Absent: Rob Liebow

Guests: Matt Cegelis, Pat McGehee

➤ **Minutes of the Meeting of November 12, 2013**

Approved.

➤ **PR Update**

There has been administrative delay at Town offices in reviewing the RFP. It is hoped that this will be resolved shortly, a distribution list agreed upon, and the process fully engaged.

➤ **Walking Tour App Update**

Meetings have been taking place among the Cape Ann cultural district groups, as well as within each cultural district, in order to coordinate and finalize the appearance, content, and launch plans for the app with the developer. In this regard the committee:

- Voted to authorize the payment of \$946.00 to seARTS as Rockport's portion of the Cape Ann contribution to the matching grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

➤ **Outreach/ Coordination with other Groups**

Lana asked the committee to consider whether it should be, or how it could be, more proactive in facilitating the work of individuals and groups who are willing to undertake projects that would benefit the town, but perhaps do not have the complete skill set, knowledge, or contacts to do so.

➤ **Administrative Paperwork**

Those members who have not yet completed the mandatory ethics training were encouraged to do so.

➤ **Other Business**

- Pat McGehee, proprietor with his wife of the former Christmas Dove, wants to improve the cleanliness and attractiveness of Front Beach and its surrounding area. He was advised to seek a meeting with the DPW Commissioners if he is not satisfied with the efforts of the DPW. The committee supports his goal.
- Peter reported that significant developments continue for the establishment of new restaurants in town as well for Whistlestop Mall.

- Gary reported that the town's Occupancy Tax receipts will suffer this year from the loss of a number of rooms at Inns and Bed and Breakfasts that have closed. Part of the reason for the closures is the rapidly developing trend of apartments and houses being rented out directly by owners, and advertised on websites such as 'Home Away'. These rentals do not provide tax receipts.
- Rol will invite George Robertson, who has complete data on CATA shuttle bus utilization, to meet with the Committee.

➤ **Date of Next Meeting**

January 14, 2013

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.